

Message Text

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUGHES AND LANKFORD O&P/FMD

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAGR/FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH ACTION TOWARDS PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE

REF: 1. FR-7099; 2. TOFAS 430; 3. AIRCOMM NOV. 25, 1977.

1. SUMMARY: A COMPROMISE PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE PLAN
SUFFERED A TEMPORARY SETBACK AT THE FEBRUARY 8 MEETING
OF THE SUPERFORMA COUNCIL BECAUSE NO AGREEMENT COULD
BE REACHED ON MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE GOAL. THE FIRST
STEPS WILL PRESUMABLY BE TO INCREASE RAPESEED
PRODUCTION BUT MORE CONTROVERSIAL PROJECTS WILL HAVE
TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE MARCH ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGH COUNCIL ON THE ORIENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION AND THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS
(SUPERFORMA) MET ON FEBRUARY 8 TO EXAMINE PROTEIN
INDEPENDENCE AND NEW HOG PRODUCTION PLAN.

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RE: PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE SUPERFORMA REVIEWED AND
REJECTED AUBERGER/POLY COMPROMISE PAPER FROM PROTEIN
WORKING GROUP (REF. 1). PAPER UNAVAILABLE.

SUPERFORMA REPORTEDLY AGREED ON BASIC GOAL OF
REDUCING FRENCH PROTEIN DEPENDENCE, ESPECIALLY FOR
SOYBEANS. HOWEVER, NO CONSENSUS REACHED REGARDING

MEANS TO BE USED.

SUPERFORMA COUNCIL WILL EXAMINE A SECOND COMPROMISE PAPER NEXT SESSION, REPORTEDLY MID-APRIL I.E., AFTER FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS MID-MARCH.

3. FRENCH OILSEED TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH CENTER (CETIOM) HELD FEB. 6 WORKSHOP ON RAPESEED PROMOTION. DIRECTOR OF INRA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRONOMICAL RESEARCH), MR. POLY ATTENDED.

GENERAL CONSENSUS FRANCE ABLE TO DOUBLE RAPESEED PRODUCTION WITHIN THREE YEARS. REPORTEDLY TOTAL RAPESEED OUTPUT COULD BE 1 MILLION MT BY 1980 (VERSUS 536,000 MT IN 1976 AND 385,000 MT IN 1977). BY 1981 MOST CRUSHING PLANTS COULD HAVE DEHULLING EQUIPMENT YIELDING OF LOW SULPHUR - CONTENT RAPESEED MEAL COMPABLE TO 44 PERCENT PROTEIN SOYBEAN MEAL FROM US.

4. COMMENTS: PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN TO SUPERFORMA MEETING ON THE PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE ISSUE ALMOST NON-EXISTANT, BECAUSE: COMPROMISE PAPER NOT AVAILABLE TO JOURNALISTS WHICH LEADS SOME OF THEM TO REFER TO THE PROTEIN W.G. AS QUOTE A MYTH UNQUOTE; LOW-PRIORITY CURRENTLY GIVEN BY MINAG TO PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE MARCH ELECTIONS PREVENT POLICY FORMATION AND CURRENT DOWNWARD TREND WORLD SOYBEAN PRICES EASE
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PUBLIC PRESSURE.

TWO ISSUES EXAMINED BY "SUPERFORMA" COUNCIL IN ITS FEB. 8 MEETING HAVE CONTRADICTORY IMPLICATIONS FOR SOYBEAN IMPORTS: THE HOG SECTOR IS ONE OF THE LARGEST USERS OF IMPORTED SOY PROTEIN AND THE NEW HOG PLAN WOULD INCREASE CONSUMPTION. PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE OF COURSE IMPLIES A REDUCTION IN USE OF SOY PROTEIN.

PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE WILL PROBABLY RE-EMERGE AS AN ISSUE AFTER MARCH ELECTIONS. FRANCE LIKELY TO UNDERTAKE RAPESEED PRODUCTION INSENTIVE INCENTIVE IN SOME FORM OTHER LIKELY CROPS ALFALFA PROTEIN AND FORAGE WHEAT. HOWEVER BEYOND THESE 3 CROPS ACTIONS DEPEND ON POLITICAL MAKEUP OF GOF AFTER ELECTIONS.
MYERSON.

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